

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
John A. Hannah Building
608 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan

October 11, 2011
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman
Mr. John C. Austin, President
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President
Mrs. Nancy Danhof, Secretary
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, Treasurer
Dr. Richard Zeile, NASBE Delegate
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus
Mr. Daniel Varner
Mrs. Eileen Weiser

Also Present: Mr. Paul Galbenski, 2011-2012 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

A. Presentation on the Proposed Adoption of the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium Model Core Teaching Standards, as the Revised Professional Standard for Michigan Teachers (Item B) – removed from the agenda

B. Approval of FY 2011-12 Camp Tuhsmeheeta (Camp T) Spending Plan (Item L) – added to the agenda

Mrs. Danhof requested that Recommendation for By-law Change from State Board of Education Legislative Committee (Item J), be removed from the agenda.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mr. Varner, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

III. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan said staff that were formerly with the Department of Human Services have physically moved to the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Great Start. Mr. Flanagan welcomed Ms. Lisa Brewer-Walraven, Director of the Office of Child Development and Care. He said she is the leader for Michigan's Great Start system to develop and implement policies that protect children and families and help them be successful and self-sufficient.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:50 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

VI. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:51 a.m.

VII. PRESENTATION ON THE GOVERNOR'S DECISION ROOM IN THE MICHIGAN HISTORICAL CENTER

Mr. Mark Harvey, State Archivist, Michigan Historical Center, presented the Governor's Decision Room in the Michigan Historical Center.

Mr. Flanagan said the Governor's Decision Room is a unique learning opportunity that will place high school students in the middle of historic governmental decisions that have shaped Michigan.

Mrs. Danhof welcomed Mr. Harvey noting that she has been a member of the Michigan History Foundation Board and the programs offered are valuable Michigan resources.

Mr. Harvey shared a video clip and distributed information on the Governor's Decision Room, as a learning tool where students assume the roles of the Governor and the Cabinet as they examine actual reports placed before state leaders in times past. He said a course of action is determined and announced at a press conference, and students gain a deeper understanding of the complexity of government and its basic structure, and develop better critical thinking skills and civic strategies for the future.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON THE PROPOSED ADOPTION OF THE INTERSTATE TEACHER ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT CONSORTIUM MODEL CORE TEACHING STANDARDS, AS THE REVISED PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR MICHIGAN TEACHERS

This item was removed from the agenda.

IX. PRESENTATION ON THE PROBATIONARY APPROVAL OF BAKER COLLEGE AS A TEACHER PREPARATION INSTITUTION

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Flora Jenkins, Director, Professional Preparation Services; and Mr. Thomas Bell, Higher Education Consultant, Professional Preparation Services; presented Probationary Approval of Baker College as a Teacher Preparation Institution.

Mr. Flanagan said after thorough review and onsite visits, a Committee of Scholars has concluded the review of Baker College's teacher preparation program and is presenting this program for probationary approval.

Dr. Christine Schram, Associate Vice President for Academics, Baker College, came to the board table to provide additional information.

There was discussion regarding the need for teacher preparation institutions to continue to meet state standards and guidelines as they evolve.

This item will be presented to the Board for approval in November.

X. PRESENTATION ON MICHIGAN SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) PARTNERSHIP

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Connie Duncan, Michigan Mathematics and Science Centers Network, and Director of Battle Creek Area Mathematics and Science Center; Ms. Patty Cantu, Director, Career and Technical Education; and Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation; presented Michigan Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Partnership.

Mr. Austin said the STEM infrastructure in Michigan in terms of education and leadership is unrivaled. He said it is important to continue to build on the state's robust STEM partnerships.

Ms. Duncan distributed information on the Michigan STEM Partnership which is working to connect and coordinate partners from across disciplines and the state to develop and nurture a skilled and educated workforce that will address the urgent needs of Michigan and the nation. Ms. Duncan provided an update on the partnership that includes representatives of education, business, industry, and government.

Ms. Cantu and Ms. Forward shared information on Math Science Centers and the preparation of students with mathematics and science skills so they are equipped to benefit from STEM programs.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 11:31 a.m.

REGULAR MEETING

XII. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

H. Approval of Minutes of Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of October 11, 2011

Mrs. Danhof moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of October 11, 2011.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said he appreciates the hard work of his fellow Board members and Department staff in focusing on many priorities.

Mr. Austin said the *Detroit Free Press* published a commentary that he wrote about the importance of investing in public goods to support economic growth. He said Michigan has many valuable resources such as the outdoors, cities, people, and universities.

Mr. Austin said there is a need to reform systems and find cost savings to strategically invest in early childhood education, higher education, and kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Mr. Austin said he and Mr. Varner shared their opinions in the *Detroit News* regarding raising Michigan Educational Assessment Program and Michigan Merit Examination cut scores and investment in a reformed education system.

XIV. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report

F. Human Resources Report

Grants

G. Report on Grant Awards

- 2010-2011 IDEA, Part B Mandated Activities Projects – Amendment
- 2011-2012 IDEA, Part B Mandated Activities Projects – Initial
- 2011-2012 Special Education-State Personnel Development Grant – Continuation
- 2009-2010 McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Assistance Grant – Amendment
- 2011-2012 Title I School Improvement – Initial
- 2011-2012 Title I Statewide System of Support Technical Assistance Grant – Initial
- 2011-2012 Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools – Initial
- 2011-2012 Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Competitive Grants – Initial
- 2010-2011 Safe and Drug-Free Schools Grant – Initial
- 2010-2011 Safe and Drug-Free Schools Grant – Amendment (\$126,932)
- 2010-2011 Safe and Drug-Free Schools Grant – Amendment (\$329,971)

Mr. Flanagan provided a verbal report on welcoming his newborn granddaughter Avery, his school visit to St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency, his meeting with Sharlonda Buckman of the Detroit Parent Network, and his meeting with the newly appointed Chancellor of the Education Achievement Authority John Covington.

He said he is developing a communication to address the confusion regarding raising the cut scores on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program and Michigan Merit Examination.

Mr. Flanagan said there is a voluntary opportunity for State Superintendents to request flexibility on behalf of the State Education Agency and its Local Educational Agencies and their schools to provide flexibility on specific Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind requirements in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive state-developed plans.

Mr. Flanagan asked that additional information be provided by Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer. Dr. Vaughn distributed and reviewed the ESEA Flexibility Summary, a written document outlining the key points of the flexibility waiver.

Dr. Joseph Martineau, Director, Bureau of Assessment and Accountability; and Dr. Venessa Keesler, Manager of Evaluation Research and Accountability; joined Dr. Vaughn at the table to answer questions.

Discussion continued later in the meeting.

XV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 12:19 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

XVI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Discussion continued regarding clarification of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind flexibility waiver requirements, principles, and the process.

XVII. REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Paul Galbenski, 2011-2012 Michigan Teacher of the Year, presented the Report of the Michigan Teacher of the Year. He provided a verbal update to his written report including standards for student entrepreneurship; the Digital Leadership Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico; his keynote address to the 2011 Career and Technical Education Teacher Academy; and a community service project donation through Coaches versus Cancer.

Mr. Galbenski shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the success of Oakland Schools Business Management Marketing and Technology Program's increase in globally recognized certificates, college credits earned, and academic credits earned.

XVIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Mr. John Lauve, Holly, Michigan. Mr. Lauve provided verbal comments on the Education report card.
- B. Ms. Debbie Rude, Portage, Michigan. Ms. Rude, representing Parents for Public Schools of Greater Kalamazoo, Inc., provided verbal comments and written information on No Child Left Behind Waivers and Senate Bills 618 and 625.
- C. Dr. Sean Kottke, Lansing, Michigan. Dr. Kottke provided verbal comments on the proposed adoption of InTASC standards.
- D. Ms. Mary Copeland, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ms. Copeland, representing Parents Empowering Network, provided verbal comments and written information on Parents Empowering Network.
- E. Ms. Barbara Symanski, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ms. Symanski provided verbal comments on Parents Empowering Network.

- F. Ms. Cathy Tilles, Brighton, Michigan. Ms. Tilles provided verbal comments and written information on Michigan after school programs.
- G. Ms. Mary Wood, Warren, Michigan. Ms. Wood provided verbal comments and written information on charter schools.

XIX. APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 CAMP TUHSMEHETA (CAMP T) SPENDING PLAN

Ms. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent; and Ms. Janet Lavery, Director, Financial Management; presented Approval of Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Camp Tuhsmeheeta (Camp T) Spending Plan.

Mr. Flanagan said at the September 22, 2011, Michigan School for the Blind Trust Fund Committee meeting, members reviewed the fiscal year 2011-2012 spending plan for Camp Tuhsmeheeta, and the item is being submitted to the Board for approval.

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mrs. Danhof, that the State Board of Education approve the FY 2011-2012 spending plan for Camp Tuhsmeheeta, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 26, 2011.

In response to Dr. Ulbrich, Ms. Lavery said the spending plan is in line with the previous year's spending plan.

Mrs. Straus provided an overview of Camp Tuhsmeheeta, and said the Board's Michigan School for the Blind Trust Fund Committee is comprised of herself, Mrs. McGuire, and Mrs. Weiser.

Following discussion, the vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XX. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Lisa Hansknecht, State and Federal Legislative Director, presented the State and Federal Legislative Update. She provided an update on the elimination of burdensome reports, kindergarten age of entry date, conversion schools, dual enrollment, and charter school cap.

XXI. DISCUSSION ON PARENT EMPOWERMENT EDUCATION REFORM LEGISLATION

Mrs. Nancy Danhof, Chair of the State Board of Education Legislative Committee, reviewed "An Open Letter from the State Board of Education to the Michigan Senate and House Regarding the Proposed Parent Empowerment Act," which was developed by the Board's Legislative Committee.

Mr. Austin said he is in support of the letter, because it addresses the expectations of high quality, transparency, and accountability.

Dr. Ulbrich said she cannot support the letter, because lifting the cap on charter schools is opening a floodgate. She said the State of Michigan has some of the least restrictive governance of charter schools and governance of charter schools needs to be addressed.

Dr. Ulbrich said local taxpayers, and not just faculty or parents, should be included in the decisions made regarding Conversion Schools.

Dr. Zeile said charter schools have proven themselves accountable to parents, and he does not support the letter because the Parent Empowerment Reform Legislation denies the freedom of parents to make decisions by establishing bureaucratic regulations.

Mrs. McGuire said she does not support the letter, because this series of legislative bills opens the floodgates for schools that have not proven themselves. She said she opposes expanding charter schools.

Mrs. Straus said she is strongly opposed to lifting the cap on charter schools. She said public schools need more resources, not less. She said there has been discussion regarding consolidation of traditional schools which is contradictory to establishing more charter schools.

Mrs. Danhof said the Board is being asked to approve the letter as a framework for successful education and not specifics of pending legislation.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Danhof, that the State Board of Education approve An Open Letter from the State Board of Education to the Michigan Senate and House Regarding the Proposed Parent Empowerment Act, as attached to the memorandum from the Chair of the State Board of Education Legislative Committee dated October 7, 2011.

Mr. Varner said the Board should take a position that any school should be a high quality excellent school. He said he would like the Board to reframe the discussion to focus on language regarding high quality schools.

Following discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Austin – Aye
Danhof – Aye
McGuire – Nay
Straus – Nay
Ulbrich – Nay
Varner – Aye
Weiser – Aye
Zeile – Nay**

The motion failed.

Mrs. Danhof moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve removing references to specific schools and that when considering legislation for all public education important criteria need to be addressed and included in legislation, as amended language in An Open Letter from the State Board of Education to the Michigan Senate and House Regarding the Proposed Parent Empowerment Act, as attached to the memorandum from the Chair of the State Board of Education Legislative Committee dated October 7, 2011.

Mr. Austin and Dr. Ulbrich asked for clarification of the motion.

Following discussion on the definition and criteria of quality education, there was Board consensus to continue discussion later in the meeting.

XXII. RECOMMENDATION FOR BY-LAW CHANGE FROM STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

This item was removed from the agenda.

XXIII. DISCUSSION ON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Mr. Austin presented Discussion on State Board of Education Communications Policy.

Mr. Austin said discussion began at the May State Board of Education Retreat regarding when and how it is appropriate for individual board members to share their opinions and statements with assistance of the Michigan Department of Education communications function.

Mr. Austin said he reviewed what other states have done, and they have not adopted a firm set of policies and practices. He said Utah has enabled some functionality for board members and the department to share their perspectives as individuals and group statements through blogs, emails, and Twitter. He said he believes it is important for individual Board members as elected officials to be able to share their individual viewpoints on education issues, if they are clearly labeled as individual viewpoints. He said Board members should be able to get assistance from the Department in sending these to the media through editorial contacts. He said it would be helpful to investigate the cost of something more interactive between Board members, the Department, and constituents regarding education policy issues. He said it is appropriate for individual board members to share their points of view and give their direction on education policy as they see fit, because that is what the Board is elected to do. He said Board members are responsible under the Constitution for providing political leadership for education.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire, that the State Board of Education approve the Proposed State Board Communications Policies and Practices, as attached to the President's memorandum dated October 7, 2011.

Mrs. Weiser reviewed an excerpt from the Michigan Constitution, State Board of Education Goal and Priorities, and the Utah public education website. She said she is not in favor of spending money for an institutional presence for social media at this point, because she believes it is a big diversion of resources with little impact.

Mrs. Weiser said the State Board of Education is a collective body and there needs to be an institutional message. She said she believes that individual Board members should be allowed to express divergent opinions, but she can find no other national or state elected body that allows dissent within its institutional communications. She said the meeting minutes should reflect discussion on the reasons for nay votes.

Mrs. Danhof said the amount of time and money expended by an institution to ensure protocols are being met should not be minimized. She said individuals have the right to issue their own statements, but she does not believe it is appropriate to have the Department send individual statements. She said public funds should be used for messages of the full Board.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Austin – Aye
Danhof – Nay
McGuire – Aye
Straus – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye
Varner – Aye
Weiser – Nay
Zeile – Nay**

The motion carried.

XXIV. DISCUSSION ON PARENT EMPOWERMENT EDUCATION REFORM
LEGISLATION (continued)

Based on discussion earlier in the meeting, Mr. Varner offered the following clarifying language, replacing the first bullet, High Quality Providers, on page 1 of An Open letter from the State Board of Education to the Michigan Senate and House Regarding the Proposed Parent Empowerment Act.

- High Quality Providers – to ensure the success of all students, all new schools should be developed in a regulatory environment that encourages the creation of high quality schools, allows for some innovation, and discourages the creation of schools likely to be of low quality.
 - Legislation authorizing the creation of new schools should only apply to authorizers with a proven track record of success. Such a track record might be measured, for example, by the percentage of their schools that are improving student performance; or the percentage of their schools that are performing at or above the state average; or the percentage of their schools that are performing at or above their district or counterparts. Those authorizers would be free to use their proven process to vet proposals.
 - Legislation authorizing the creation of new schools should not apply to authorizers with a poor track record.

Following discussion, there was no consensus.

Mr. Austin left the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

XXV. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Straus said there should be discussion regarding moving the MEAP testing window from fall to spring. Mr. Flanagan said the test will be moving to the spring in the 2014-15 school year when the SMARTER Balanced Assessments are implemented.

XXVI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee comprised of Mr. Austin, Dr. Ulbrich, and Mrs. Danhof with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXVII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, November 8, 2011 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, December 6, 2011 (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Tuesday, January 10, 2012 (9:30 a.m.)
- D. Tuesday, February 14, 2012 (9:30 a.m.)

XXVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Danhof
Secretary